

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 02993 121709Z

65-60

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 USIA-15 /030 W
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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7011

UNCLAS JAKARTA 2993

FOR CU EA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC 'JOHNSON, THOMAS)

SUBJECT: STAG GRANTEE

REF: STATE 053276

THOMAS JOHNSON SERVED AS BOXING COACH TO INDONESIA FROM JUNE 1, 1974 UNTIL DECEMBER 1974. HE GAVE COACHING CLINICS AND TRAINED AMATEUR BOXERS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY SUCH AS SURABAYA, BALI, AND AMBON (MALUKA). AFTER MR. JOHNSON RETURNED FROM THE SEVENTH ASIAN GAMES IN TEHERAN, WHERE THE INDONESIAN TEAM OF 4 MEMBERS (COACHED AND SELECTED BY MR. JOHNSON) WON ONE BRONZE MEDAL AND SHOWED PROMISE OF GARNERING T YA GOLD IN THE FUOURE, AND DAR ES SALAAM, WHERE HE ATTENDED THE INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR BOXING ASSOCIATION MEETING, HE GAVE A SIX-WEEK COACHING CLINIC FOR 40 NATIONAL COACHES FROM OCTOBER 21 - NOVEMBER 30 IN JAKARTA.

"SARGE" PLANNED THE TRAINING OF THE BOXERS DOWN TO THE LAST DETAIL INCLUDING A CHANGE OF DIET IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THEIR STAMINA.

HIS TEXT ON BOXING TECHNIQUES WAS TRANSLATED BY MR. KOOSNADI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF PEKTINA (INDONESIAN AMATEUR BOXING FEDERATION), AND WAS PRINTED BY PERTINA (VARIOUS OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE ALSO REQUEST TRNSLATIONS OF THE TEXT).

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ON NOV 18, MR. JOHNSON WAS INTERVIEWED FOR TV BY THE USIS TV AND RADIO SECTION AND ON NOV 22 MR. JOHNSON HELD A VERY EFFECTIVE DIALOGUE WITH AN INVITED AUDIENCE AT THE BNC. THE DIALOGUE WAS SPONSORED BY USIS AND THE BNC.

MR. JOHNSON WAS A VERY EFFECTIVE AMBASSADOR FOR THE UNITED STATES AND BOXING. THE INDONESIANS SPOKE CONSTANTLY OF WHAT A GREAT AMBASSADOR HE WAS. MANY NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE ARTICLES WERE WRITTEN ABOUT HIM (MANY OF THESE ARTICLES WERE SENT BACK TO CU/IAP). ALL ARTICLES WERE ACCOMPANIED BY A PICTURE OF "SARGE".

WHEN HE FIRST ARRIVED, HE WAS RECEIVED BY AIR MARSHAL SALEH BASARAH, CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE INDONESIAN AIR FORCES AND GENERAL CHAIRMAN OF PERTAINA. JUST BEFORE HE LEFT TO RETURN TO THE USA, HE WAS HONORED AT A SPECIAL DINNER HOSTED BY AIR MARSHAL BASARAH. BEFORE HE LEFT FOR TEHERAN, MR. JOHNSON WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT SOEHARTO WHO WISHED HIM AND THE INDONESIAN BOXING TEAM SUCCESS IN THE ASIAN GAMES.

SA NOTE: MR. KOOSNADI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF PERTINA AND THE PRIME MOVER IN THE EFFORT TO OBTAIN A BOXING COACH FOR INDONESIA, DIED ON MARCH 10 AFTER A PROLONGED ILLNESS.
NEWSOM

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